

CHAPTER XIX.

CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT.

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| 1. The English Constitution. | 8. The election to the Commons. |
| 2. The Great Charter. | 9. The House of Commons—Procedure. |
| 3. Primary principles. | 10. Selection of the Cabinet. |
| 4. The Dominion Act. | 11. Privy Council-in-Canada. |
| 5. Limited Monarchy in Canada. | 12. The influence of public sentiment. |
| 6. Duties of the Governor-General. | |
| 7. The Senate. | |

1. We have seen that previous to the union of 1867, each province of the Dominion had its system of government, similar to that of the mother country, and which it had acquired after a greater or less struggle by petition and agitation. Throughout the several stages of colonial growth, as marked by these efforts after self-government and by the Imperial Acts, granted in response to them, there was a constant appeal made to that authority called the **English Constitution**, in the provisions of which the people of the provinces claimed to have equal rights with their fellow-subjects in Great Britain. And not only by means of petition, but also throughout the whole course of legislation, we find reference made to the same standard. If we pass from Canadian to English history, and follow it back for more than six hundred years, we shall find this same authority appealed to again and again, not merely as a guide in peaceful law-making, but as the only basis for the settlement of national struggles far more protracted and fierce, than any that have ever occurred in the colonies. From these facts it would seem, that at some time in the past, there had been an agreement between the several classes of the population in the kingdom, concerning their